



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

**APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION,
DEATH PENSION AND ACCRUED BENEFITS BY A SURVIVING SPOUSE
OR CHILD (INCLUDING DEATH COMPENSATION IF APPLICABLE)**

VA FORM NUMBER 21-534

A. QUESTIONS? GET FREE INFORMATION: If you have any questions about this form, how to fill it out, or need information about other Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, call us:

VA NATIONWIDE TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

1-800-827-1000

(Hearing Impaired--TDD 1-800-829-4833)

B. YOU SHOULD USE THIS FORM TO:

(1) Apply for VA benefits you may be entitled to receive as a surviving spouse or child of a deceased veteran;

(2) Apply for any money VA owes the veteran but did not pay prior to death (called accrued benefits);

(3) If you apply for any one of these benefits, the law requires that we also consider you for the others.

(4) **SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS:** You can apply for Social Security (SS) benefits now by using the SSA-24 attached to this VA Form. (See pages 9 and 10.) You don't have to apply if you don't want to or if you already have. If you do want to apply, fill it out and leave it attached. We will send it to the Social Security Administration. They will then contact you.

C. WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS FORM: Mail it or take it to a VA Regional Office.

D. REGIONAL OFFICE ADDRESS: You should call the VA toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000, for the address or location of the Regional Office. You might find that office's address in the blue pages of your telephone book. It may be under "United States Government, Veterans Affairs."

IMPORTANT

E. PLEASE BEGIN BY FOLLOWING THE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS. They begin on page 2.

F. PRINT ALL ANSWERS CLEARLY. If you must write the answers, do so very clearly and plainly. If an answer is "None" or "O", write that. **YOUR ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION IS IMPORTANT to help us complete your claim.**

G. YOU MUST SIGN AND DATE this application at the bottom of page 8.

H. MAKE A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS APPLICATION for your records before you mail it. Also, tear off and keep this instruction page and all other separate instruction pages.